



Sustainable Solutions:

Compost

Compost is a natural mulch and soil amendment produced from landscape and household waste.

Compost improves soil structure and texture and increases the soil's ability to hold both water and air. It also improves soil fertility and stimulates healthy root development in plants.

Compost is waste turned into a resource.

Over 33 million tons of the municipal waste stream is yard and landscape debris—all of which is compostable! So start composting! With a small investment in time, you can contribute to the solution, improve your garden, and save money on fertilizers and mulch.

Create your own compost pile.

All you really need to successfully compost other than space and a bin to contain it are three basic ingredients: 1. Browns—material such as pieces of cardboard, loosely balled paper, dead leaves, small branches, and twigs; 2. Greens—grass clippings, uncooked vegetable peelings, green leaves, soft garden prunings, fruit scraps, and coffee grounds; and 3. Water. The ideal compost pile contains equal amounts of browns and greens (of varying sizes) placed in alternate layers. The “brown” supplies the carbon for your compost, the “green” provides nitrogen, and water provides the moisture needed to break down the organic matter. Do NOT add glass, tin, plastic, cooked food, cheese, grease, animal feces, diseased plants, or roots of perennial weeds. There is no one way to compost. Look at these three examples and decide which is right for you.

Remember, everyone can compost! It is good for your garden and for the planet!

For information visit:

www.epa.gov/epawaste/conservation/rrr/composting/by_compost.htm

<http://journeytoforever.org/compost.html>

www.compostinfo.com



UNITED STATES
BOTANIC GARDEN
on line @ <http://www.usbg.gov>